Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

FORMER CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR AGREES TO 78-MONTH PRISON TERM FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced that PAUL EDWARD MONK, 38, of Lake Isabella, Calif., pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of possession of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. As part of his plea agreement, the defendant agreed to a prison term of 78 months and a 10-year term of supervised release.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices in Bakersfield, California and San Antonio, Texas. It is part of the ongoing Department of Justice program Project Safe Childhood. For more about this initiative, visit *www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/psc*.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, MONK admitted that on March 22, 2006, he possessed on one or more computer hard drives more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images were of prepubescent children and some depicted violence or sadistic abuse. A federal indictment against MONK was returned on October 9, 2008. At the time of his arrest, MONK was employed as an adjunct instructor in history and personal development at Cerro Coso Community College's Kern River Valley campus in Lake Isabella. Court documents indicate that MONK used a PayPal account established in his name to purchase child pornography from a Web site on the Internet.

MONK was remanded into the custody of the United States Marshals Service upon his change of plea today. The court scheduled sentencing for June 15, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a maximum term of ten years in prison, a $250,000 fine, and a lifetime term of supervised release.

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